

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP2005/000942

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B65G47/51			
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED			
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B65G			
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
Y	EP 1 275 603 A (SIG PACK SYSTEMS AG) 15 January 2003 (2003-01-15) cited in the application Spalte 2, Abschnitt 13 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 17; Abbildungen; Zusammenfassung	1,4,6,28	
A	EP 1 295 820 A (SIG SIMONAZZI S.P.A) 26 March 2003 (2003-03-26) Spalte 2, Abschnitt 7; Spalte 2, Abschnitt 10 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 14; Spalte 4, Abschnitt 17 – Spalte 5, Abschnitt 21; Abbildungen	2,3,5, 7-27, 29-40	
Y	EP 1 295 820 A (SIG SIMONAZZI S.P.A) 26 March 2003 (2003-03-26) Spalte 2, Abschnitt 7; Spalte 2, Abschnitt 10 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 14; Spalte 4, Abschnitt 17 – Spalte 5, Abschnitt 21; Abbildungen	1,4,6	
A	EP 1 295 820 A (SIG SIMONAZZI S.P.A) 26 March 2003 (2003-03-26) Spalte 2, Abschnitt 7; Spalte 2, Abschnitt 10 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 14; Spalte 4, Abschnitt 17 – Spalte 5, Abschnitt 21; Abbildungen	2,3,5, 7-27	
		-/-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patent family members are listed in annex.
* Special categories of cited documents :			
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	
"E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date		"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)		"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		"G" document member of the same patent family	
"P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed			
Data of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report	
24 August 2005		30.09.2005	
Name and mailing address of the ISA		Authorized officer	
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patenttaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Clivio, E	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP2005/000942

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 734 978 A (JERVIS B. WEBB INTERNATIONAL COMPANY) 2 October 1996 (1996-10-02)	41
Y	Spalte3, Zeilen 8-41; Zusammenfassung; Abbildungen 1,3	28
A	-----	29-40, 42-48
A	US 4 549 647 A (COSSE ET AL) 29 October 1985 (1985-10-29) Spalte 3, Zeile 23 - Spalte 4, Zeile 45; Abbildungen	1-27
A	US 2003/155212 A1 (ABERT BERNARD ET AL) 21 August 2003 (2003-08-21) Seite 1, Abschnitt 1; Seite 2, Abschnitte 26-39; Abbildungen	1-27
A	FR 2 766 803 A (ARRIAZA DIAZ JOSE) 5 February 1999 (1999-02-05) Seite 1, Zeilen 1,2; Seite 1, Zeile 24 - Seite 2, Zeile 20; Abbildungen	1-27
A	US 2002/195317 A1 (WIPF ALFRED) 26 December 2002 (2002-12-26) the whole document	1-27
A	US 5 429 227 A (KROESSMANN ET AL) 4 July 1995 (1995-07-04) the whole document	28-48

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000942**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000942

The International Searching Authority has found that the international application contains multiple (groups of) inventions, as follows:

1. Claims 1-27

Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor, comprising a continuous, flexible conveying means wherein the continuous conveying means comprise grippers arranged over its entire length.

2. Claims 28-48

Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor, comprising a link chain which is fitted with rotatable guide rollers.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/000942

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 1275603	A	15-01-2003	AT DE EP ES US	261895 T 50200295 D1 1275603 A1 2217244 T3 2002195317 A1		15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004 26-12-2002
EP 1295820	A	26-03-2003	EP	1295820 A1		26-03-2003
EP 0734978	A	02-10-1996	US AU AU BR CA CN CZ DE DE EP ES FI HK HU JP KR NO NZ PL RU SG ZA	5620084 A 692268 B2 2721795 A 9503986 A 2158301 A1 1132170 A ,C 9600891 A3 69515983 D1 69515983 T2 0734978 A2 2145198 T3 955897 A 1013978 A1 73447 A2 8301423 A 264903 B1 961296 A 286098 A 310275 A1 2160694 C2 41957 A1 9506206 A		15-04-1997 04-06-1998 10-10-1996 14-10-1997 01-10-1996 02-10-1996 16-10-1996 04-05-2000 27-07-2000 02-10-1996 01-07-2000 01-10-1996 08-12-2000 28-08-1996 19-11-1996 01-11-2000 01-10-1996 25-03-1998 14-10-1996 20-12-2000 15-08-1997 27-01-1997
US 4549647	A	29-10-1985	FR CA DE DE EP ES GB	2524436 A1 1212131 A1 3376643 D1 91856 T1 0091856 A1 8604826 A1 2118125 A ,B		07-10-1983 30-09-1986 23-06-1988 07-06-1984 19-10-1983 01-08-1986 26-10-1983
US 2003155212	A1	21-08-2003	FR AU EP WO	2807413 A1 4848301 A 1274635 A1 0176989 A1		12-10-2001 23-10-2001 15-01-2003 18-10-2001
FR 2766803	A	05-02-1999	FR	2766803 A1		05-02-1999
US 2002195317	A1	26-12-2002	AT DE EP ES	261895 T 50200295 D1 1275603 A1 2217244 T3		15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004
US 5429227	A	04-07-1995	DE DE EP ES	4324120 A1 59404196 D1 0635441 A1 2108344 T3		26-01-1995 06-11-1997 25-01-1995 16-12-1997

INTERNATIONAHLER RECHERCHENBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen

PCT/EP2005/000942

A. KLASIFIZIERUNG DES ANMELDUNGSGEGENSTANDES
IPK 7 B65G47/51

Nach der Internationalen Patentklassifikation (IPK) oder nach der nationalen Klassifikation und der IPK

B. RECHERCHIERTE GEBIETE

Recherchierte Mindestprüfstoff (Klassifikationssystem und Klassifikationssymbole)
IPK 7 B65G

Recherchierte aber nicht zum Mindestprüfstoff gehörende Veröffentlichungen, soweit diese unter die recherchierten Gebiete fallen

Während der internationalen Recherche konsultierte elektronische Datenbank (Name der Datenbank und evtl. verwendete Suchbegriffe)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. ALS WESENTLICH ANGESEHENE UNTERLAGEN

Kategorie*	Bezeichnung der Veröffentlichung, soweit erforderlich unter Angabe der in Betracht kommenden Teile	Betr. Anspruch Nr.
Y	EP 1 275 603 A (SIG PACK SYSTEMS AG) 15. Januar 2003 (2003-01-15) in der Anmeldung erwähnt	1,4,6,28
A	Spalte 2, Abschnitt 13 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 17; Abbildungen; Zusammenfassung	2,3,5, 7-27, 29-40
Y	EP 1 295 820 A (SIG SIMONAZZI S.P.A) 26. März 2003 (2003-03-26)	1,4,6
A	Spalte 2, Abschnitt 7; Spalte 2, Abschnitt 10 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 14; Spalte 4, Abschnitt 17 – Spalte 5, Abschnitt 21; Abbildungen	2,3,5, 7-27
		-/-

Weitere Veröffentlichungen sind der Fortsetzung von Feld C zu entnehmen

Siehe Anhang Patentfamilie

- * Besondere Kategorien von angegebenen Veröffentlichungen :
- *A* Veröffentlichung, die den allgemeinen Stand der Technik definiert, aber nicht als besonders bedeutsam anzusehen ist
- *E* älteres Dokument, das jedoch erst am oder nach dem internationalen Anmeldedatum veröffentlicht worden ist
- *L* Veröffentlichung, die geeignet ist, einen Prioritätsanspruch zweifelhaft erscheinen zu lassen, oder durch die das Veröffentlichungsdatum einer anderen im Recherchenbericht genannten Veröffentlichung belegt werden soll oder die aus einem anderen besonderen Grund angegeben ist (wie ausgeführt)
- *O* Veröffentlichung, die sich auf eine mündliche Offenbarung, eine Benutzung, eine Ausstellung oder andere Maßnahmen bezieht
- *P* Veröffentlichung, die vor dem internationalen Anmeldedatum, aber nach dem beanspruchten Prioritätsdatum veröffentlicht worden ist
- *T* Spätere Veröffentlichung, die nach dem internationalen Anmeldedatum oder dem Prioritätsdatum veröffentlicht worden ist und mit der Anmeldung nicht kollidiert, sondern nur zum Verständnis des der Erfindung zugrundeliegenden Prinzips oder der ihr zugrundeliegenden Theorie angegeben ist
- *X* Veröffentlichung von besonderer Bedeutung; die beanspruchte Erfindung kann allein aufgrund dieser Veröffentlichung nicht als neu oder auf erforderlicher Tätigkeit beruhend betrachtet werden
- *Y* Veröffentlichung von besonderer Bedeutung; die beanspruchte Erfindung kann nicht als auf erforderlicher Tätigkeit beruhend betrachtet werden, wenn die Veröffentlichung mit einer oder mehreren anderen Veröffentlichungen dieser Kategorie in Verbindung gebracht wird und diese Verbindung für einen Fachmann naheliegend ist
- *&* Veröffentlichung, die Mitglied derselben Patentfamilie ist

Datum des Abschlusses der Internationalen Recherche

Absendedatum des internationalen Recherchenberichts

24. August 2005

30.09.2005

Name und Postanschrift der Internationalen Recherchenbehörde
Europäisches Patentamt, P.B. 5818 Patenttaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Bevollmächtigter Bediensteter

Clivio, E

INTERNATIONAHLER RECHERCHENBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen PCT/EP2005/000942

C.(Fortsetzung) ALS WESENTLICH ANGESEHENE UNTERLAGEN

Kategorie ^a	Bezeichnung der Veröffentlichung, soweit erforderlich unter Angabe der In Betracht kommenden Teile	Betr. Anspruch Nr.
X	EP 0 734 978 A (JERVIS B. WEBB INTERNATIONAL COMPANY) 2. Oktober 1996 (1996-10-02)	41
Y	Spalte3, Zeilen 8-41; Zusammenfassung; Abbildungen 1,3	28
A	-----	29-40, 42-48
A	US 4 549 647 A (COSSE ET AL) 29. Oktober 1985 (1985-10-29) Spalte 3, Zeile 23 - Spalte 4, Zeile 45; Abbildungen	1-27
A	-----	1-27
A	US 2003/155212 A1 (ABERT BERNARD ET AL) 21. August 2003 (2003-08-21) Seite 1, Abschnitt 1; Seite 2, Abschnitte 26-39; Abbildungen	1-27
A	FR 2 766 803 A (ARRIAZA DIAZ JOSE) 5. Februar 1999 (1999-02-05) Seite 1, Zeilen 1,2; Seite 1, Zeile 24 - Seite 2, Zeile 20; Abbildungen	1-27
A	US 2002/195317 A1 (WIPF ALFRED) 26. Dezember 2002 (2002-12-26) das ganze Dokument	1-27
A	US 5 429 227 A (KROESSMANN ET AL) 4. Juli 1995 (1995-07-04) das ganze Dokument	28-48

INTERNATIONALER RECHERCHENBERICHTInternationales Aktenzeichen
PCT/EP2005/000942**Feld II Bemerkungen zu den Ansprüchen, die sich als nicht recherchierbar erwiesen haben (Fortsetzung von Punkt 2 auf Blatt 1)**

Gemäß Artikel 17(2)a) wurde aus folgenden Gründen für bestimmte Ansprüche kein Recherchenbericht erstellt:

1. Ansprüche Nr. weil sie sich auf Gegenstände beziehen, zu deren Recherche die Behörde nicht verpflichtet ist, nämlich

2. Ansprüche Nr. weil sie sich auf Teile der internationalen Anmeldung beziehen, die den vorgeschriebenen Anforderungen so wenig entsprechen, daß eine sinnvolle internationale Recherche nicht durchgeführt werden kann, nämlich

3. Ansprüche Nr. weil es sich dabei um abhängige Ansprüche handelt, die nicht entsprechend Satz 2 und 3 der Regel 6.4 a) abgefaßt sind.

Feld III Bemerkungen bei mangelnder Einheitlichkeit der Erfindung (Fortsetzung von Punkt 3 auf Blatt 1)

Die internationale Recherchenbehörde hat festgestellt, daß diese Internationale Anmeldung mehrere Erfindungen enthält:

siehe Zusatzblatt

1. Da der Anmelder alle erforderlichen zusätzlichen Recherchengebühren rechtzeitig entrichtet hat, erstreckt sich dieser internationale Recherchenbericht auf alle recherchierbaren Ansprüche.

2. Da für alle recherchierbaren Ansprüche die Recherche ohne einen Arbeitsaufwand durchgeführt werden konnte, der eine zusätzliche Recherchengebühr gerechtfertigt hätte, hat die Behörde nicht zur Zahlung einer solchen Gebühr aufgefordert.

3. Da der Anmelder nur einige der erforderlichen zusätzlichen Recherchengebühren rechtzeitig entrichtet hat, erstreckt sich dieser Internationale Recherchenbericht nur auf die Ansprüche, für die Gebühren entrichtet worden sind, nämlich auf die Ansprüche Nr.

4. Der Anmelder hat die erforderlichen zusätzlichen Recherchengebühren nicht rechtzeitig entrichtet. Der Internationale Recherchenbericht beschränkt sich daher auf die in den Ansprüchen zuerst erwähnte Erfindung; diese ist in folgenden Ansprüchen erfaßt:

Bemerkungen hinsichtlich eines Widerspruchs

Die zusätzlichen Gebühren wurden vom Anmelder unter Widerspruch gezahlt.

Die Zahlung zusätzlicher Recherchengebühren erfolgte ohne Widerspruch.

WEITERE ANGABEN	PCT/ISA/ 210
<p>Die internationale Recherchenbehörde hat festgestellt, dass diese internationale Anmeldung mehrere (Gruppen von) Erfindungen enthält, nämlich:</p> <p>1. Ansprüche: 1-27</p> <p>Vorrichtung zum dynamischen Speichern von Gegenständen entlang einer Förderstrecke mit einem endlosen, flexiblen Fördermittel, wobei das endlose Fördermittel über seine gesamte Länge mit Greifern versehen ist.</p> <p>2. Ansprüche: 28-48</p> <p>Vorrichtung zum dynamischen Speichern von Gegenständen entlang einer Förderstrecke mit einer mit drehbaren Führungsrollen bestückte Gliederkette.</p>	

INTERNATIONALES RECHERCHENBERICHT

Angaben zu Veröffentlichungen, die zur selben Patentfamilie gehören

Internationales Aktenzeichen

PCT/EP2005/000942

Im Recherchenbericht angeführtes Patentdokument		Datum der Veröffentlichung		Mitglied(er) der Patentfamilie		Datum der Veröffentlichung
EP 1275603	A	15-01-2003	AT DE EP ES US	261895 T 50200295 D1 1275603 A1 2217244 T3 2002195317 A1		15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004 26-12-2002
EP 1295820	A	26-03-2003	EP	1295820 A1		26-03-2003
EP 0734978	A	02-10-1996	US AU AU BR CA CN CZ OE OE EP ES FI HK HU JP KR NO NZ PL RU SG ZA	5620084 A 692268 B2 2721795 A 9503986 A 2158301 A1 1132170 A ,C 9600891 A3 69515983 D1 69515983 T2 0734978 A2 2145198 T3 955897 A 1013978 A1 73447 A2 8301423 A 264903 B1 961296 A 286098 A 310275 A1 2160694 C2 41957 A1 9506206 A		15-04-1997 04-06-1998 10-10-1996 14-10-1997 01-10-1996 02-10-1996 16-10-1996 04-05-2000 27-07-2000 02-10-1996 01-07-2000 01-10-1996 08-12-2000 28-08-1996 19-11-1996 01-11-2000 01-10-1996 25-03-1998 14-10-1996 20-12-2000 15-08-1997 27-01-1997
US 4549647	A	29-10-1985	FR CA OE DE EP ES GB	2524436 A1 1212131 A1 3376643 D1 91856 T1 0091856 A1 8604826 A1 2118125 A ,B		07-10-1983 30-09-1986 23-06-1988 07-06-1984 19-10-1983 01-08-1986 26-10-1983
US 2003155212	A1	21-08-2003	FR AU EP WO	2807413 A1 4848301 A 1274635 A1 0176989 A1		12-10-2001 23-10-2001 15-01-2003 18-10-2001
FR 2766803	A	05-02-1999	FR	2766803 A1		05-02-1999
US 2002195317	A1	26-12-2002	AT DE EP ES	261895 T 50200295 D1 1275603 A1 2217244 T3		15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004
US 5429227	A	04-07-1995	OE DE EP ES	4324120 A1 59404196 D1 0635441 A1 2108344 T3		26-01-1995 06-11-1997 25-01-1995 16-12-1997

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT
TRANSLATION

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	See form PCT/ISA/210
Applicant's or agent's file reference pathape1032W		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/EP2005/000942	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.02.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 02.02.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B65G47/51			
Applicant KRONES AG			

<p>1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.I(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
<p>2. FURTHER ACTION</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(h) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.</p> <p>If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.</p> <p>For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.</p> <p>3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>

Name and mailing address of the ISA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000942

Box No. I Basis of this opinion	
<p>1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).</p> <p>2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:</p> <p>a. type of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing</p> <p>b. format of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in written format</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form</p> <p>c. time of filing/furnishing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.</p> <p>4. Additional comments:</p>	

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International application No.
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Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has:
 paid additional fees
 paid additional fees under protest
 not paid additional fees
2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is:
 complied with
 not complied with for the following reasons:

See supplemental sheet
4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
 all parts
 the parts relating to claims Nos. _____

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000942

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-40, 42-48	YES
	Claims	41	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2, 3, 5, 7-27, 29-40, 42-48	YES
	Claims	1, 4, 6, 28, 41	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-48	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

As the search fees have been paid for both inventions, this opinion covers both inventions, or all the claims.

Invention 1 (claims 1-27)

1 Claim 1

Document D1 is considered to be the closest prior art and discloses a device for dynamically storing objects (see IV, paragraph 4).

However, document D1 does not disclose a conveying means which is provided with grippers over its entire length.

2 The problem addressed by claim 1 can therefore be considered that of providing an alternative device for dynamically storing and gripping objects.

3 The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be regarded as inventive for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)): the solution features have already been used for the same purpose in a similar device, cf. in this regard document D2, in particular column 3,

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000942

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

paragraph 14. If a person skilled in the art wished to achieve the same aim in a device as per document D1, he could easily apply these features to like effect to the subject matter of D1. In this way he would arrive at a device as per claim 1 without thereby being inventive.

- 4 The additional features of dependent claims 4 and 6 are also known from a combination of document D1 with document D2.
- 5 Claims 1-27 relate to industrially applicable subject matter (PCT Article 33(4)).

Invention 2 (claims 28-48)

1 Claim 28

Document D1 is considered to be the closest prior art and discloses a device for dynamically storing objects (see IV, paragraph 4).

However, document D1 does not disclose that the conveying means has a link chain which is equipped with rotatable guide rollers and at least in regions runs in at least one stationary guide rail, at least one guide roller being arranged movably on the respective chain link.

- 2 The problem addressed by claim 28 can therefore be considered that of providing a device for dynamically storing and gripping objects with an alternative link chain.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY		International application No. PCT/EP2005/000942
Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.I(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	
3	<p>The solution proposed in claim 28 of the present application cannot be regarded as inventive for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)): the solution features have already been used for the same purpose in a similar device, cf. in this regard document D3, in particular column 3, lines 8-41; abstract; figures 1 and 3.</p> <p>If a person skilled in the art wished to achieve the same aim in a device as per document D1, he could easily apply these features to like effect to the subject matter of D1. In this way he would arrive at a device as per claim 28 without thereby being inventive.</p>	
4	<p>Claim 41</p> <p>Document D3 discloses a link chain (chain assembly (14)) equipped with rotatable guide rollers (center rollers (24)), at least one guide roller being arranged movably (see: column 3, lines 38-41) on the respective chain link. All the features of claim 41 are therefore known from D3.</p>	
5	<p>Claims 28-48 relate to industrially applicable subject matter (PCT Article 33(4)).</p>	

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In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 = EP-A-1275603

D2 = EP-A-1295820

D3 = EP-A-0734978

Box IV

1 This Authority has determined that the international application contains multiple inventions or groups of inventions which are not linked by a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1), as follows:

I. Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor section with a continuous, flexible conveying means, the continuous conveying means being provided with grippers over its entire length.

II. Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor section with a link chain equipped with rotatable guide rollers.

2 These inventions are not so linked with one another as to form a single general inventive concept, for the following reasons:

3 The application is devoted to the general object of providing a device for storing objects with a

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link chain.

4 Document D1 discloses a device for dynamically storing objects (goods (G)) along a conveyor section between an input station (input station) and an output station (output station) with a continuous, flexible conveying means (conveying means (1)) which is divided in a variable manner into a conveying strand (storage strand (10, 10')) and an empty strand (empty strand (11, 11', 12, 12')), the conveying strand and the empty strand in each case having regions of variable length which are movable in opposite directions (see figures), with at least one slide (slide (2)) for changing the storage capacity which can be displaced in the conveying plane and has a first diversion for the conveying strand (diverting roller (12)) and a second diversion for the empty strand (diverting roller (21')), and also with a first drive arrangement for the conveying means in the region of the input station and a second drive arrangement for the conveying means in the region of the output station, the first and the second drive arrangements being drivable independently of one another with variable conveying speed (see: column 3, paragraphs 15-17).

5 The contributions of the different inventions to the prior art according to document D1 can be assessed as follows:

Claims 1-27

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The continuous conveying means is provided with grippers over its entire length; the corresponding object is, for example, to provide an alternative device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor section between an input station and an output station.

Claims 28-48

The link chain is equipped with rotatable guide rollers; the corresponding object is, for example, to provide an alternative link chain.

- 6 No non-trivial features which are the same or features with the same or corresponding non-trivial effect can be seen from either the claims or the description.
- 7 The application thus fails to meet the requirement of unity of invention (PCT Rule 13.1), since there is no technical relationship among the subjects of said groups of claims involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features (PCT Rule 13.2).